

THE PRESENT
State and Condition
OF THE
Low-Countreis:
RELATING

To this Conjunction, with an Impartial
account of the King of France his Armies late
Progress therein; and the Names and Descriptions of the Towns
by him taken during this present Campaigne.

ALSO

The Extent, Cituation, Taxes, and Forces of the

SEVEN

UNITED PROVINCES;

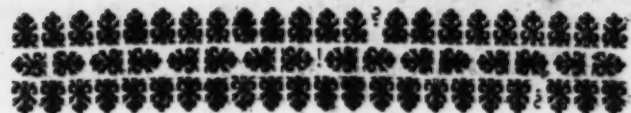
EXPRESSED

In a Dialogue between an *English-man*
and a *Dutch-man*.

London, Printed for *Phil. Brooksby*, at the Golden Ball in *West-*
Smith-field. 1672.



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THE PRESENT
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Eglifhman. **W**orthy Gentleman, well overtaken, if your way lyes forward, I would be glad of your good Company, 'tis Irk some Riding alone, and the way seems tedious, having none to converse with.

Dutchman, I thank you Sir, and except of your kindness, for of all men living, I love Society most in a Journey.

Eng. By the way pray Sir inform me which way is your journey.

Dutch. I am travelling towards the Mart of Christendome.

Eng. London you mean, and thither I am travelling.

Dutch. You have guift pretty well in the Maine, but I meant *Holland*, though I must confels I think if there were a-

any place in Christendom; might vie with Holland it is London.

Eng. And why to Holland, Sir, and why in a time when all things seem to threaten it with a general devastation, and Ruine.

Dutch. That Question Sir I shall soon discuss by telling you that my Interest, Friends, Liberty, and Country calls for my Assistance, in a time of so eminent danger.

Eng. Great Reasons I confess, and since I understand by your Discourse that you are a Dutchman; I shall trouble you with some Questions relating to this present Conjuncture, pray your Name Sir.

Dutch. Any thing that comes within the Verge of my Understanding: I shall most Freely Discourse it with you; as for my Name it is known, my Country is Utrecht.

Eng. Pray Sir inform me of the Situation and extent of this Place called Holland.

Dutch. Under the Name of the Low-Countries, are comprehended seventeen Provinces; and before the late Troubles, Flanders was esteemed the best, but now Holland carries the Tytle, it is encompassed on three sides with the Ocean viz. On the West, the East, and North; in it there is no Desert, or empty Place; there being such an Affluence, and concourse of People, by the reason of these present Wars, that it is almost too little to hold them. The whole Circuit of Holland comprehending great Lakes, and part of the South-Sea, is but a hundred and fourscore Miles: the breadth not above twenty four Miles.

Eng.

Eng. You have told me Wonders, but pray what may be their Force and Taxes, more especially at this time.

Dutch. As there is no War without Tribute, so in this case Holland is seldom without War, is never without Tributes, which are exacted from all sorts of Commodities whatsoever, besides the three grand Taxes of Pole-money, Chimneys, and Land Taxes; though these rise to a most Prodigious Tribute yet by reason of these Wars, they are now raised a fourth part: But now Sir I would pray you to inform me, concerning your Intelligence. From Holland and the French Kings Progress therein this Campaign.

English-m. That I shall Sir most willingly, and I desire to do it without interruption, the Most Christian King in his Progress hath hitherto met with all the success imaginable, all the power of the Hollanders being not able to impeede his March, his Armies overcoming all difficulties, particularly when they laid a Bridge of Timber over the Rhine, and marcht their Forces over it, when their enemies were 35000. Incamped within a mile of the place, they never opposed it, but suffered them to perfect it and pass over; there was also a Bridge of Boats made upon the Meuse, over which the whole Army marcht without let or molestation. There hath been several Rencontres, both of Horse and Foot with their Enemies, in which the Hollanders have still come by the worst. Nor is the Bishop of Munsters Forces less successful in taking several Towns of Importance, and meeting with no opposition able to dispute his Victories.

Dutch-m. It is an easie matter to talk of Victories and successes, but it remains that these reports be confirmed, and therefore I desire you to tell me more of the particular names of such Towns, and how taken, and by whom.

Eng.

Eng. That I shall instruct you, and for the better understanding this, you must take notice that the French King hath divided his Army into four Parts or Squadrons, the first commanded by himself, the second to the Prince of Conde, the third to the Duke of Orleans, the fourth to the Vi-count Turenne; the Towns of note which they have severally taken in each Squadron, as they are divided. By his Most Christian Majesty are taken Rhynberg, Emerick and Reese: by the Duke of Orleans Orsoy, by the Prince of Conde, Wesel and Borculo: by the Vi-count Turenne Nimwegen: the Bishop of Munsters Forces Groll and Dotechem; more taken by the French Arnhem, Schenkeschance, and Graves; in all, the number of the Towns taken are thirteen, most of them well'd Towns with Forts and Outworks to defend them, but all of them at least Garrison Towns; the news of the taking of these Towns in Holland arriving at the States, and the people understanding the danger, puts them in so a general fear and confusion, together with the insupportable Taxes, which commands a fourth part of every mans Estates: also their severe Placcats or Proclamations, commanding on pain of death that every tenth Married Man not above threelcore, and every fifth Batchelor not under sixteen years of Age, are compelled to serve their States: and now they are compelled to Plow up all their Meadow-Grounds, to prevent the French Kings Armies Forrage, these severe Placcats being ill resented by the common people, have in many places obliged the Villagers to pay cheerfully Contribution to the King of France, as being best able to Protect them, and now Sir before we come to our Journeys end I pray tell me what think you of this their present State and Condition.

Dutch-man. In truth Sir, I fear the consequence will prove very Bad, for in the eye of a'l humane reason, they are like to be a sicking State, if some mighty Providence do not suddenly direct these Judgments threatnd: I could now wish and so I suppose would many thousands more of the Hollanders, that

that they had not been so ungrateful to forget such stupendious Courtesies they have received from their Neighbours: but Sir, time and our Journeys-end part us, I would have been glad of farther Conference, but I must refer it to our next meeting, good night Sir.

Eng. I wish you the same.

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